

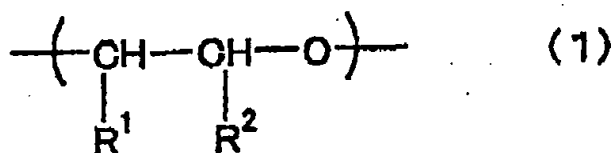
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. - 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A stabilized dispersion magnetorheological fluid comprising a magnetic particle, a dispersive medium and a dispersing agent

wherein said dispersing agent is a polyether containing a polymer unit represented by the following general formula (1):



in the formula, R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms; R<sup>2</sup> represents -(AO)m-R<sup>3</sup>; R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent; A represents an alkylene group of 1 to 3 carbon atoms; m represents an integer of 1 to 50; and A groups which number m may be the same or different.

4. (Currently Amended) The stabilized dispersion magnetorheological fluid according to Claim ~~1 or 3~~ 6

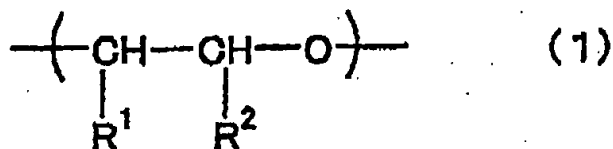
wherein the dispersive medium is a hydrocarbon oil.

5. (New) The stabilized dispersion magnetorheological fluid according to Claim 3

wherein the dispersive medium is a hydrocarbon oil.

6. (New) A stabilized dispersion magnetorheological fluid comprising a magnetic particle, a dispersive medium and a dispersing agent

wherein said dispersing agent is a polyether containing a polymer unit represented by the following general formula (1):

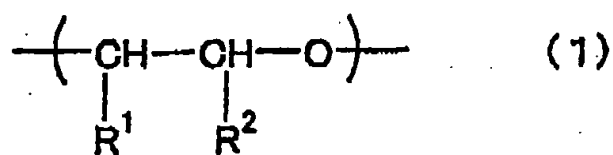


in the formula,  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms; when  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent, or  $-(\text{AO})_m\text{R}^3$ ;  $\text{R}^3$  represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent; A represents an alkylene group of 1 to 3 carbon atoms; m represents an integer of 1 to 50; and A groups which number m may be the same or different, and when  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent, or  $-(\text{AO})_m\text{R}^3$ ;  $\text{R}^3$  represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have

a substituent; A represents an alkylene group of 1 to 3 carbon atoms; m represents an integer of 1 to 50; and A groups which number m may be the same or different, and having a molecular weight of 10,000 to 100,000,000.

7. (New) A mechanical device containing a magnetorheological fluid to which a magnetic field is applied to produce large changes in rheological characteristics and yield stress of the magnetorheological fluid, the magnetorheological fluid comprising magnetic particles, a dispersive medium and a dispersing agent, the magnetic particles being uniformly dispersed in the magnetorheological fluid at all times, including when the mechanical device is operated

wherein the dispersing agent is a polyether containing a polymer unit represented by the following general formula (1):



in the formula,  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms; when  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent, or  $-(\text{AO})_m-$  $\text{R}^3$ ;  $\text{R}^3$  represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent; A represents an alkylene group of 1 to 3 carbon

atoms; m represents an integer of 1 to 50; and A groups which number m may be the same or different, and when R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent, or -(AO)<sub>m</sub>-R<sup>3</sup>; R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms which may optionally have a substituent; A represents an alkylene group of 1 to 3 carbon atoms; m represents an integer of 1 to 50; and A groups which number m may be the same or different, and having a molecular weight of 10,000 to 100,000,000.

8. (New) The mechanical device according to Claim 7 wherein the dispersive medium is a hydrocarbon oil.

9. (New) The mechanical device according to claim 7 or 8, comprising one of a clutch, brake, damper, shock absorber, and aseismatic structure for a building.

10. (New) A mechanical device containing a magnetorheological fluid to which a magnetic field is applied to produce large changes in rheological characteristics and yield stress of the rheological fluid, the magnetorheological fluid comprising the rheological fluid of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6.

11. (New) The mechanical device according to claim 9, comprising one of a clutch, brake, damper, shock absorber, and aseismatic structure for a building